Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for quantization of ~~a~~ histogram bin ~~value~~ values of an image, characterized in that: the range of the histogram bin ~~value~~ values is non-uniformly quantized ~~according to the frequency of occurrence,~~ wherein the range of the histogram bin values is separated into at least three regions, wherein at least one of the regions has sub-regions, and wherein an interval of each of the sub-regions is uniform within the at least one region but non-uniform with respect to each of the other regions.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the range of the histogram bin values varies according to predetermined thresholds of the histogram bin value.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the value having a histogram bin value of '0' is mapped into a single quantum, equivalent to a code value.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the values having a histogram bin value between '0.0' and a very close number of '0.0' is mapped into a single quantum, equivalent to a code value.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the values having a histogram bin value ~~of~~ more than the largest predetermined threshold are mapped into a single quantum, equivalent to a code value.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein when the range of the respective <u>histogram</u> bin value ~~of the histogram~~ is normalized as the range of values from 0 to 1, the largest predetermined threshold is a value ranging from 0.1 to 1.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the histogram is a color histogram.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the histogram is a color structure histogram.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the range having a bin value of greater than '0' and less than the largest threshold is uniformly quantized into a plurality of ~~sections~~<u>sub-regions</u>.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ a range having a bin value of greater than '0' and less than the largest threshold is non-uniformly quantized.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein sub-ranges divided by the remaining thresholds are uniformly quantized into a plurality of ~~sections~~ sub-regions.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the range having a bin value of greater than '0' and less than the largest threshold is from 0.0001 to 0.0999.

Claims 13-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A multimedia searching method using a histogram that expresses feature information of multimedia, comprising:

normalizing histogram bin values

non-uniformly quantizing a range of the normalized histogram bin ~~value~~ values of an image ~~according to a frequency of occurrence,~~ wherein the range of normalized histogram bin values is separated into at least three regions, wherein at least one of each of the regions has

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sub-regions, and wherein the range of the sub-regions is uniform within the at least one region but non-uniform with respect to each of the other regions; and

performing a search using the non-uniformly quantized histogram.

29.   (Currently Amended) A method for quantization of a histogram bin value of an image, comprising:

providing a plurality of 2^N bin values using N bits;

normalizing the histogram bin value so that each of the 2^N bin values becomes a number in a range of the histogram bin value between 0 and 1;

non-uniformly quantizing the bin values in the range of the histogram bin value according to the frequency of occurrence by dividing the range into three or more regions and allocating a different number of quantization levels according to a sub-range within each region such that within at least one of the three or more regions the range of each of the quantization levels is uniform but non-uniform with respect to the quantization levels of each of the other regions.

Claims 30-31. (Canceled)